

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

MAYOR: Vincent Howell

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero
Barbara A. Casey
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Ann Marie Gallegos, Interim City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Esther Garduno Montoya, City Attorney
David T. Bibb III, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Howell thanked everyone in the audience for attending the council meetings and advised it is important to listen to their voice as their voice matters and not to be intimidated to speak with them.

Mayor Howell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Romero asked for a moment of silence for all those who have passed away in our community and for all those who are homeless and guidance for the Governing Body to continue to do the right thing for the community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Howell asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes		

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 8th Work Session and January 15, 2020 Regular as amended. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., seconded the motion. Mayor Howell advised making an amendment to the minutes on January 8th, he stated that in the minutes, he received the letter of resignation from the previous Mayor and would like it changed to state, "I received the letter from the City Manager". Mayor Howell asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes		

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Meredith Britt spoke about loose dogs that have been roaming around for several months. Ms. Britt advised there was a pack of loose dogs in her neighborhood that run after people, herself and her dog. Ms. Britt advised she and others have contacted the Police, she has also contacted her City Councilor and wrote a letter to the Optic. Ms. Britt advised the problem has not been solved and doesn't know what else she could do but something needs to be done.

Mayor Howell asked where the pack of loose dogs were.

Ms. Britt advised they were by the riverwalk and the Utilities Department.

Mayor Howell advised the Council would address the problem.

Joan Krohn spoke about going through physical therapy from having an encounter with a loose dog while riding her bicycle. Ms. Krohn advised she was thrown off the bicycle while trying to avoid the dog. Ms. Krohn stated she saw five dogs near New Mexico Avenue and that kids cannot walk to school with so many dogs roaming around. Ms. Krohn requested that something be done to prevent others from being injured.

Mayor Howell advised that all comments be directed towards the Governing Body.

Wid Slick spoke about the current governing body doing great things for Las Vegas Lodgers Tax over the last four years. Mr. Slick advised they passed the one percent lodgers tax increase which means there is one hundred thousand dollars a year to beautify the community such as the Gallinas River Park and the E. Romero Fire Museum. Mr. Slick stated the Governing Body has shown respect to the Lodger Tax Advisory Board, never challenging or overturning any recommendations. Mr. Slick further stated their support allowed Lodger Tax promotions to grow the Las Vegas Tourism economy, now generating over 15 million dollars per year, which is over 10 percent of the City's total economy. Mr. Slick advised tourism may be the fastest growing sector of the City's economy, which grew 27 percent in the first half of the fiscal year. Mr. Slick stated he appreciated the appointment of three highly qualified community volunteers to the Lodger Tax Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Resolution #20-04 transferring two vehicles to Santa Fe Community College.

Police Chief David T. Bibb advised the Police Department is seeking approval to transfer (2) seventeen year old unmarked vehicles to the auto shop program at the Santa Fe Community College. Police Chief Bibb advised the vehicles are not operational, are at a zero value and have no value to the department.

Councilor Romero asked how the decision to give the vehicles to Santa Fe Community College was made.

Mayor Howell advised the Council would address the problem.

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Police Chief Bibb advised they sought them out, and advised last year they gave (2) transfers, first to Highlands then to Luna Community College and wanted to spread it around.

Police Chief Bibb advised when they sought out Santa Fe Community College they were enthusiastic to receive them.

Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallegos advised her understanding was they take the vehicles and upgrade them to vehicles that can be used and worked on in the classroom.

Mayor Howell asked if the vehicles would be transferred as is.

Police Chief Bibb advised yes, and that all the police equipment had been removed from those vehicles and Santa Fe College understands they are getting them as is.

Mayor Howell stated they won't be driving them, only working on them in the classroom.

Police Chief Bibb advised presently they are not drivable, and are destined for the auto shop class.

Mayor Howell asked about any kind of liability when they transfer the vehicles.

Police Chief Bibb advised they won't be driven, they would be trailered and once they take possession of the vehicles its theirs.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

2. Resolution No. 20-03 assuring the availability of matching funds for the participation in the New Mexico Department of Transportation Municipal Cooperative Agreement (COOP), in the amount of \$75,000.00 which is 25% of total estimated project cost of \$300,000.00 for this phase of the project.

Interim Public Works Director Danny Gurule advised the project is for Keen Street and West National. Interim Public Works Director Gurule stated he was seeking

approval for the availability of matching funds for the COOP for the Keen and West national project.

Councilor Romero asked about the drainage on Keen Street within his ward.

Interim Public Works Director Gurule advised the drainage for the project would be on the Northside and is looking into a cost estimate which would need a full reconstruction as far as drainage.

Councilor Casey asked if the match amount was available and from what fund.

Interim City Manager Gallegos advised it would be from the 214 street coop fund and would be available July 1st.

Mayor Howell advised that Interim Public Works Director Gurule and himself went to the Legislature and spoke with Senator Campos and Representative Salazar and they appreciated Interim Public Works Director Gurule's comments regarding their needs.

Mayor Howell thanked Interim Public Works Director Gurule.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

3. Request to purchase one front load commercial collection truck for the Solid Waste division.

Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry and Solid Waste Manager Lucas Marquez advised they were requesting to replace a new front load commercial collections truck. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised both commercial and residential trucks needing to go to shops for repairs, and normally have a three to five year life but the current truck is between nine and eleven years old. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised Council approved a budget adjustment request to fund both trucks but she's not sure when they will receive the trucks.

Councilor Casey asked how many front loader trucks the Solid Waste Department would have once they purchased the new truck.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised one truck has passed its life expectancy and is costing the City a lot to repair so would be put aside but there would be two usable vehicles for each route.

Councilor Casey asked if the front loaders pick up the big trash bins.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised yes.

Discussion took place regarding the warranties on the vehicle and preventive maintenance.

Councilor Ulibarri asked how many commercial drivers they had.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised there is one commercial driver and one residential driver.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they have a total of three vacancies.

Councilor Ulibarri asked how many customers there were.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised between three and four hundred customers.

Councilor Ulibarri advised it would be good to do maintenance on what they can at their facility to save money.

Mayor Howell asked about the maintenance program and if there would be certified maintenance employees that could work on the equipment.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised they would get the proper training for the individuals that would work on equipment and they have also had free training through MCT.

Discussion took place regarding the type of license the drivers should have and the proper rate of pay for drivers in the Solid Waste department.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

4. Request to purchase one side load residential collection truck for the Solid Waste division.

Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry advised they are requesting to purchase a residential truck due to aging trucks but also when that older truck is being repaired the driver could use the newer truck to continue routes. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised the cost would be more for the residential truck than the commercial truck and has been budgeted.

Councilor Casey asked how many trucks they would have that are usable.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised two commercial trucks and two operable residential and one back up.

Discussion and questions took place regarding the warranties on the truck, if a residential truck that was needing repairs got fixed and if they were replacing dumpsters.

Mayor Howell asked if the residential truck was capable of lifting recycle bins from the curbside.

Solid Waste Manager Marquez advised yes.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

5. Request to purchase one multi terrain loader (skid steer) for the Water Distribution division.

Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry advised the distribution division is in need of replacing their existing skid steer due to the age of the equipment. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised the older skid steer would be transferred to Waste Water. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they would be getting additional equipment for the skid steer.

Councilor Ulibarri advised it was a good thing to get the attachments for the skid steer because they can be used for a lot of different jobs.

Discussion took place regarding the warranty and if it was budgeted.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

6. Request to Repeal City of Las Vegas Governing Body Rules of Procedure, Resolution 02-17 adopted 7/17/2002 and amended 7/20/2005, in its entirety.

Councilor Barbara Casey advised the resolution created so much conflict within the Council because it did not align with the City Charter or with City ordinances. Councilor Casey advised the administration would use the resolution but when it conflicted with the City Charter or City ordinances they couldn't resolve those issues. Councilor Casey advised the State Auditor had requested that the resolution be repealed because it was poorly written and was a conflict with other documents that superseded the resolution. Councilor Casey advised they need to repeal the entire resolution.

Councilor Casey advised the former Mayor used the resolution to hire her own lawyer and pay with City money. Councilor Casey advised by repealing the resolution Councilor Romero and herself would be able to file a motion with the court to request that the declaratory judgement be dismissed that way they could end the contract with the attorney who is still representing the former Mayor.

Councilor Casey requested when they meet next week that they repeal the resolution and solve all the conflicts and solve the question as to what they should be following in terms of ordinances and City Charter.

Councilor Casey advised there are other things in place that give them rules to follow such as state statutes and the Municipal Code which are the City's ordinances.

Councilor Casey advised the resolution was not necessary.

Councilor Casey advised discussion item 6 could not go under consent items and would have to be voted on separately.

Mayor Howell advised it would help re-initiate the Charter Review Committee, so they could really take a look at the Charter that hasn't been changed in ten years.

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Mayor Howell advised he asked the Councilors to give him at least two names to initiate the Charter Review Committee.

Interim City Manager Gallegos asked when the two names from each Councilor would be brought back.

Mayor Howell advised as soon as he received the names they would make a decision.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Romero made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Howell asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes		

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene into regular session after being in Executive session to discuss personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, and advised only those matters were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Howell asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Howell asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes		

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez Sena re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

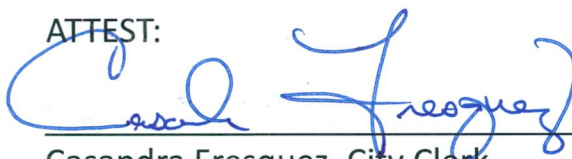
Mayor Howell asked about Las Vegas Day scheduled for February 17th and what time it was at.

Interim City Manager Gallegos advised Mayor Howell about the scheduled times for Las Vegas Day.



Vincent Howell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk